

Remarks

Claims 1 to 20 are pending in this application. In the Office Action mailed 5 December 2003, the Examiner has rejected the Application for various reasons, which will now be addressed in turn.

1. Drawings

The Examiner required submission of formal drawings. Formal drawings are submitted herewith.

2. Claim Objections

Claims 1, 9 and 17 were objected to for informalities. The informalities have been corrected in the amended claims.

3. 35 U.S.C. 112 Rejection

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 were rejected under section 112 for insufficient antecedent basis. These claims have been corrected by amendment. Similar problems in claims 9 to 20 have likewise been corrected by amendment.

4. 35 U.S.C. 102(e) Rejection

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Groath et al., U.S. patent number 6,571,285 (hereafter "Groath"). The Groath patent was filed on 23 December 1999. The present application was also filed on 23 December 1999. Therefore, Groath was not "a patent granted on an application for patent by another **filed** in the United States **before the invention** by the applicant for patent" (See *Ex parte Gilderdale*, 1990 Pat. App. LEXIS 25 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. Appeal no. 89-0352 (The parent application was

filed on the same day as the examined application and thus no 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection could be made based on the parent's filing date.)). Therefore, Groath is not a valid reference for a 102(e) rejection. Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

5. Amendment to the Title in the Specification

Applicants have amended the title to remove the surplus phrase "A SYSTEM, METHOD AND ARTICLE OF MANUFACTURE FOR".

6. Summary

All of the Examiner's rejections and objections having been addressed, Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable and request that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at 612-607-7508. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees including fees for any extension of time, to Deposit Account No. 50-1901 (Docket 060021-331301).

Respectfully submitted,



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